

this capacity since May 2004 and he will soon be accepting command of the 6th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Through his assignment as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the House, Colonel Simcock has been an invaluable link between Members of Congress and the Marine Corps. He has coordinated and accompanied congressional delegations to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, organized and contributed to meetings between Members of Congress and key leaders of the Marine Corps, and worked to ensure that Members are kept fully informed of the programs vital to the Corps' operability.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked directly with Colonel Simcock on many Committee-related issues. We have come to rely on his candid illustrations and knowledge of the Marine Corps and, over the last two years, Colonel Simcock has been an important part of our efforts to identify the priorities and address the challenges facing the Corps.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the Marine Corps have been called to action and tasked with confronting unconventional adversaries in the operational theaters of the global war on terrorism. In Iraq, they are fighting courageously and continue to provide developing security forces with quality instruction and training. However, as the Marines have adjusted and developed new tactics to successfully combat the Iraqi insurgency, Congress has responded by ensuring these brave men and women have the operating and protective equipment necessary to accomplish their mission. In doing so, we have utilized the insight of Colonel Simcock and his ability to open effective communication channels between Congress and the Marine Corps.

Colonel Simcock is greatly respected as an officer and leader who possesses a deep and abiding passion for what it means to be a Marine: unquestionable devotion to duty; impeccable integrity; and sound character. His efforts will have a long lasting impression on the Marine Corps and I know he will serve the 6th Marine Regiment with the same level of dedication and selflessness he demonstrated while serving this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of appreciation that I salute Colonel Simcock for his tireless work and outstanding leadership on such important issues and I wish both him and his wife, Mary, continued success in their future endeavors.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MOSCOW HEL- SINKI GROUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 17 years ago, my dear friend and colleague, Rep. FRANK WOLF, and I traveled to the Soviet Union, to visit the notorious Perm Labor Camp No. 37, located in the shadows of the Ural Mountains. There were three camps in the Perm labor camp complex that had been set up specifically in 1972 for political prisoners and others whom Moscow considered "especially dangerous." Fortunately, by the time of

our visit many of the incarcerated had been released and by 1991 the camp had emptied out completely in the closing chapter of the USSR. As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I can vividly recall that glimpse into life in the Soviet Gulag, both a memorable and sobering experience.

I mention that trip because Friday of this week, May 12, will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Moscow Helsinki Group, a leading human rights organization devoted to monitoring the Kremlin's adherence to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. The Helsinki Final Act was signed by the United States, Canada and thirty-three European countries, including the Soviet Union. While much of this document was focused on military security, economics and trade, there were important provisions on human rights and humanitarian issues, such as freedom of conscience and family reunification, which the Soviet Government and the other signatories promised to uphold.

At a May 12, 1976, Moscow press conference organized by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the Moscow Helsinki Group announced that it would collect information and publish reports on implementation of the Helsinki Accords by the Soviet Government. The initiator of this effort was Dr. Yuri Orlov, a physicist who had already been repressed by the Kremlin and the KGB for his human rights activism. Orlov was joined by ten other founding members; with time others joined in the group.

As might be expected, the Soviet Government did not welcome this initiative. Members were threatened by the KGB, imprisoned, exiled or forced to emigrate. The Soviet press went into full-scale attack mode, accusing the Moscow Helsinki Group of being subversive and charging that some members were on the payroll of foreign intelligence services. I might mention that a thinly veiled version of this canard against the group was recently resurrected by a representative of the KGB's successor, the FSB, on national television.

Arrests of members of the Moscow Group began within a year of its founding. In 1978, Dr. Orlov himself was sentenced to 7 years labor camp and 5 years internal exile. In 1986, he was brought back to Moscow, put on a plane and deported to the United States in exchange for a Soviet spy. Other Moscow Helsinki Group members found themselves at the notorious Perm Labor Camp complex that I mentioned earlier. For his criticism of the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Dr. Sakharov was exiled to the closed city of Gorky beginning in January 1980. His wife and Moscow Helsinki Group member, Dr. Elena Bonner, joined him there in 1984 after having been convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Founding member Anatoly Marchenko died while on a hunger strike at Chistopol Prison in December 1986.

By the end of 1982, less than 7 years after the group's founding, it appeared that the KGB and the Soviet Government had triumphed over the small band of idealists who pressed their leaders to live up to the promises made at Helsinki. With only three members at liberty and those under intense KGB pressure, the Moscow Helsinki Group was forced to suspend its activities. By 1986, only one member of the group, Naum Meiman, continued to meet with foreign visitors and Western correspondents. Meiman's wife, Irina, died of

brain cancer after waiting years for Soviet authorities to give her permission to leave the Soviet Union for specialized treatment abroad, a reminder of the personal costs to human rights activists and their families under a cruel regime.

But the Helsinki spirit lived on. In the West, supporters and sympathizers demonstrated on behalf of imprisoned Helsinki Monitors. The cases of imprisoned or exiled Helsinki Monitors were often raised at diplomatic meetings between the United States and the Soviet authorities. In the Soviet Union itself, enlightened leaders began to understand that repressive governments may squelch the voices of dissenters for a time, but their message will be heard by other means.

And on February 14, 1987, less than 5 years after the Moscow Helsinki group was forced to suspend its activities, a small item in "Izvestiya" announced the possibility of certain prisoners being released from labor camp. It was the beginning of the end for the repressive Soviet system.

In July 1989, the Moscow Helsinki Group was reestablished by several long-time human rights activists: Larisa Bogoraz, Sergey Kovalev, Viatcheslav Bakhtin, Alexey Smirnov, Lev Timofeev, and Boris Zolotukhin. Today, Ludmilla Alexeyeva, who had been exiled to the United States by Soviet authorities for her earlier work, now chairs this respected organization.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years after its founding and 15 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the re-established Moscow Helsinki Group remains active in speaking out in defense of human rights, civil society, and rule of law in Russia. I congratulate the members of the Moscow Helsinki Group for their achievements in the past and pledge my support for their vital ongoing work.

RECOGNIZING JARED GOEDE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Jared Goede of Kansas City, Missouri. Jared will be honored with the Billy Mitchell Award and Second Lieutenant Bars as a member of the Platte Valley Civil Air Patrol. He has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since 2004 and has been involved in the color guard since 2005.

As a member of the community, Jared has been active in 4-H, the North Kansas City High School Scholar Bowl Team, the American Heartland Theatre, and his church. Additionally, he has pursued many academic activities outside of his regular schoolwork. He has studied at Truman State University's Joseph Baldwin Academy for Eminent Young Scholars, studied hydrodynamics at a Westminster College summer camp, and participated in the Students in Academically Gifted Education program through the North Kansas City School District.

Jared has already enlisted into the United States Army Reserves as a Civil Affairs Specialist. Upon graduating from North Kansas City High School in May of 2006, Jared will enter boot camp in June of 2006 and then defer his active duty status until he completes